

Interagency Ecological Program Stakeholder Meeting

May 10, 2017

1:30-3:30pm

Dept. of Water Resources
3500 Industrial Blvd, Rm 119
West Sacramento, CA 95691



**Interagency
Ecological Program**
COOPERATIVE ECOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATIONS SINCE 1970

Randy Baxter, CDFW	Ted Sommer, DWR
Kelsey Cowin, SFCWA	Lisa Thompson, RegionalSan
Steve Culberson, IEP	Laura Valoppi, SFCWA
Gregg Erickson, CDFW	Dave Van Rijn, USBR
Sakura Evans, CDFW	Dave Zezulak, CDFW
Rainer Hoenicke, DSP	
Josh Israel, USBR	On the phone:
Jessica Law, DPIIC	Scott Brandl, DSP
Zoltan Matica, DWR	Frances Brewster, SCVWD
Tim Mussen, RegionalSan	Alejo Kraus-Polk, UC Davis
Jonathan Nelson, CDFW	Lynda Smith, MWD
Alicia Seesholtz, DWR	Kim Webb, USFWS

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, and consideration of agenda

Dave Van Rijn, USBR

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2. IEP Program Updates

Gregg Erickson, CDFW

Gregg.Erickson@wildlife.ga.gov

- Contact Gregg directly for a PDF of the presentation
- The IEP is committed to continuing our check-ins with the IEP Stakeholders quarterly
- The program is just beginning work on 2018 Work Planning, and today is an overview of where things are right now. We are working on collecting updates to ongoing Compliance and Baseline Status & Trends project elements and more detailed information about work planning should be available in August.
- The program is also working through current year adjustments for the 2017 IEP Work Plan (projects coming in out of cycle).
- Some possible monitoring changes:

- UCD Suisun Marsh was awarded a Prop 1 grant – planning to expand existing efforts
- FRP Tidal Wetlands is updating their pilot effort; just released their Phase II report; Conceptual Model tech report will be released soon
- DJFMP is considering minor adjustments to examine fish conditions
- Knights Landing is considering adding a genetic component to address issues with salmon misidentification; in line with the suite of SAIL recommendations
- Possible Directed Studies for 2018
 - More detailed fact sheets will be available in August 2017
 - EDSM may adapt their effort for year 2
 - DJFMP may try to incorporate some of the SAG review recommendations in 2018
 - New studies from Float could be coming in to the IEP in 2018; some smaller efforts could be deployed as a supplement to EDSM as early as 2017
 - Some salmon modeling and monitoring efforts identified in the SAIL effort may be included in the 2018 work plan
 - Possible coordinated efforts on genetic monitoring
 - Possible increased predation efforts
 - USBR examination of environmental monitoring platforms were deployed in reservoirs the last year, may get moved into the Delta next year
- No dedicated IEP funds for PSPs this year, but individual agencies still may try to participate in some cost-sharing

3. IEP Lead Scientist Update

Steve Culberson, IEP

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- Steve has been working on a revised set of IEP programmatic documents, which are nearing completion and the updated documents should be available on the website soon. Periodic reexamination of foundational documents is a priority for the IEP to ensure documents are relevant and accurate.
- What is the purpose of those foundational documents?
 - Effort initiated in 2012/13 to address shortcomings in communication and transparency
 - Governance Framework lays out the structure and organization of the IEP, along with roles and responsibilities of each IEP work team
 - Annual Work Plan explains how the work plan is created every year
 - Strategic Plan may get reviewed in the future
- FRP Tidal Wetlands Conceptual Model technical report
 - Large interagency effort developed through the Tidal Wetlands Project Work Team
 - Going through final approvals now; SMT review will commence next week
 - Should be published digitally in the next month or so
- Float PWT
 - Meetings led by Andrew Schultz (USBR) and Larry Brown (USGS)

- All are welcome to attend these meetings
- Spring Run PWT is being formed
 - More information should be available by the next stakeholder meeting
 - Keep an eye out for the email announcement about the first meeting – share the announcement with all who may be interested in attending
- IEP issues with Marine Mammals
 - IEP is pursuing an MMPA permit right now
 - Concern is that our gear is not entangling or injuring marine mammals
 - Working closely with NMFS to develop a permit that meets the IEP's needs
 - Primarily focused on sea lions and harbor seals, not river otters
- Steve C continuing his Lead Scientist Listening Tour
 - Still going out on IEP surveys with Pls

4. Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee Updates

Jessica Law, DPIIC

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- Jessica is the Special Assistant for Planning and Science at the DSP. She has a background in ecology and land use planning, and she has been working in the Delta for a few years now. Her main role is to coordinate the DPIIC effort which focuses on the implementation of the Delta Plan, and Jessica's primary focus is collaboration, coordination, and facilitation.
- DPIIC just completed their 7th meeting. This is still a new group and they meet twice a year.
- DPIIC's role is to serve as a forum to implement the Delta Plan:
 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan-0>
 - Long term management actions in the Delta
 - Originally called out in the Delta Reform Act
 - Called out in Governor's Reform Action Plan
 - Similar structure to CalFed
- The Delta Plan was adopted in 2013 because the Delta Stewardship Council recognized that high level coordination was necessary to implement the Plan
 - Includes performance measures
 - Specific actions called out
 - Specific agencies called out
- At DPIIC meetings, agencies meet to discuss common objectives and plans to pursue implementation of the actions
- DPIIC and Delta Plan resources are available online
 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-plan-interagency-implementation-committee-3>
- Some early DPIIC successes:
 - Delta Science Plan
 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/delta-science-plan-0>
 - Science Action Agenda

- <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/2017-2021-science-action-agenda>
- Formation of the Delta Science Agency Work Group
- Science Enterprise Workshop
 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/docs/science-enterprise-workshop-proceedings-report-nov-1-2-2016>
- Reviews of EcoRestore effort and help with permitting
- Pursuing structured decision-making as a method for informing decision-making
 - Used by USBR successfully for Central Valley Improvement Act
 - Drafting a structured decision-making process as a tool for science in the Delta
- DPIIC is focusing on collaboration and decision-making informed by the best available science, and to help inform a narrative for the public about how these issues/efforts overlap
- Agreement that DPIIC would help with EcoRestore permitting – is this something that SFCWA may also need assistance with?
 - Tule Red successfully went through the permitting process; it was a special case because it was the first project to go through the process
 - The rest of the EcoRestore permitting efforts are being turned over to DWR
 - The request for help from DPIIC came on the heels of Tule Red completing permitting and the agencies recognized that extra help may be needed
 - The focus now is pursuing more region-wide general permits and look at permitting in a more strategic way
- SOE Conference and BDSC used to be a forum for those working in the Delta so they were able to interact and discuss issues and formulate plans. State employees are now often restricted from attending by the executive order (travel ban) and can no longer attend. If DPIIC and DSP could discuss this issue with member agencies, it would be very helpful.

5. What the Heck Does ‘One Delta, One Science’ Mean in the Real World?

Rainer Hoenicke, DSP

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- The Delta Science Plan was written to follow-up on a recommendation in the Delta Plan for science efforts to be scientifically grounded and for the implementing agencies to know how to implement intelligently and effectively.
 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/delta-science-plan-0>
- Calls for additional coordination and collaboration among various science programs operating in the Delta, and encourages a coherent picture of science efforts in the Delta.
- It was designed to include all science programs operating in the Delta, and DSP has sought to unite all of these efforts and provide forums to prioritize high impact science efforts and work together to create synergies.
- The Delta Science Plan was completed in 2013

- Originally high level actions
 - Test out what could be accomplished
 - Assess the effectiveness of the document now that 4 years have passed
- The Plan is meant to ensure that new scientific information was being shared more rapidly and broadly. As the knowledge base increases, we should have mechanisms to disseminate that information and turn it into management solutions.
- While the IEP provides the people/boats on the water, DSP works on coordinating the science efforts throughout the Delta. The DSP can focus on the areas where IEP doesn't always have the capacity or charge to comply.
- The benefits and successes of the Delta Science Plan and DSP:
 - DSP has the luxury of being forward-looking; not as vulnerable to the emerging issue of the day
 - Help with synthesis efforts
 - Communicating Delta science in a relevant and meaningful way
 - SFEWS journal
 - http://escholarship.org/uc/jmie_sfews
 - Great strides toward facilitating an open science community
- Planning to update the Delta Science Plan next year
- Have people noticed a more open science community?
 - A clear improvement, but would still like to see increased support for institutional infrastructure to eliminate competition (institutional capacity)
 - Also want to see better access and connection to the tributaries
 - Also want to see more opportunities to participate in pooled funding or cost-shares, when those funds are available
 - DSP funds are dedicated to research gaps and glue; funds aren't really earmarked for specific efforts, unlike other agencies
- To what extent are people using the Bay-Delta scientific body of knowledge shared at the BDSC conference? Are those results/papers getting traction with Directors?
 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/state-bay-delta-science-2016>
 - Will all of those papers be collated into a single volume? Yes, they should be available in the next month or so.
 - Encouragement to utilize those papers as a resource; those papers should be foundational reading for anyone working in the Bay-Delta and participating in these forums
 - Water Quality Portal is another resource to explore the data
- Would like to see a list of projects nearly developed that are ready to pursue when money becomes available
 - These discussions are already occurring within the DSP; emergency response to emerging issues isn't always productive
 - Certain categories for studies can be prepared in advance and ready to use when those conditions arise. If they are already queued up and ready to go, it would be a lot more efficient and we could minimize lost opportunities. Already peer-reviewed in advance with permitting in place would be key.

- This could become part of the new structured decision-making process that DPIIC is pursuing.
- Govt scientists rely on a lot of university partners and they often need a heads up and reliability. Also, our ability to be responsive is why people rely on us. Don't want to limit ourselves by being overly predefined. Predictability is important, but being responsive to emerging needs is a strength of govt science.
- Any updates about the new DSP lead Scientist?
 - The ISB is meeting tomorrow for a closed session, they should come up with a recommendation to the DSC in July
 - The goal is to have some overlap with Cliff before he retires
- 2017 Delta Science Fellows
 - <http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/delta-science-fellows-program>

6. Stakeholder Updates and Roundtable Discussion

- SFCWA Updates, Laura Valoppi
 - SFCWA has compiled a list of management questions, which was displayed on a poster at the IEP Annual Workshop. Laura is now sharing it with the resource agencies and with the Council of Lead Scientists.
 - Commitment to use SFCWA funds on usable science
 - SFCWA is considering providing funding to the following this year:
 - Nutrients
 - Delta RMP
 - Additional monitoring at Tule Red
 - Cache Slough Collaborative 2
 - Toxicity studies
 - Fish flow/turbidity
 - Management questions will figure into all of these projects
 - Crossover with the Delta Conservancy
 - Small pot of funds for "science leveraging" in case an emergency need arises
- USBR Updates, Dave Van Rijn
 - Trying to organize a workshop with SWFSC on a Life Cycle Model for Chinook Salmon to delve into the technical aspects of the model
 - Open to public
 - Planned for the end of June
 - DWR hosted workshop on the use of cultured Delta Smelt next week
 - How cultured fish can be used for both management and science
 - At the end of last year, Congress passed the WIIN Act that gives authorities for CA water
 - No funding associated with the bill
 - Michele Banonis has accepted a position with DWR; Dave Mooney will be acting as USBR Bay-Delta Area Manager until her position is filled
 - Position may not be subject to the federal hiring freeze; USBR is still working through this
 - Send organization events to IEP and DSP to keep calendars updated

- Fish & Wildlife Commission Delta Fisheries Forum on May 24, 2017 in Sacramento
 - Informal panel discussion including Cindy Messer, Carl Wilcox, and Rainer Hoenicke
 - file:///C:/Users/sevans/Downloads/Delta%20fish%20forum%20flyer_050517.pdf
- IEP Personnel Updates:
 - Stephani Spaar is retiring from DWR, long time Coordinator for the IEP
 - Dave Zezulak is retiring from CDFW, long time Coordinator for the IEP
 - Darcy Austin is now the IEP Coordinator from DSP
 - Rachel Johnson and Charlotte Ambrose are our IEP Coordinators from NMFS
 - Joe Domagalski is now the IEP Coordinator from USGS
 - Dave Van Rijn will continue as the IEP Stakeholder Group ombudsman
- RVERS Update
 - DWR Director gave approval to release the EIR last week
 - DWR Director went to DC last week to discuss this issue and request federal funding for this project
 - DWR position to lead this effort is posted right now

7. Wrap up

Next IEP Stakeholder Meeting:
August 9, 2017
1:30-3:30pm
Dept. of Water Resources, Room 119
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